

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TUNIS 00053 061839Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1244

S E C R E T TUNIS 0053

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR AO TS

SUBJECT: ANGOLA:PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

REF: STATE 1376

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY AMERICAN DIVISION CHIEF BEN REDJEB, JAN 6 TOLD EMBASSY THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER ON ANGOLA AND WAS AWARE OF CONTENTS OF PLANNED REPLY, WHICH WOULD RESTATE WELL KNOWN TUNISIAN POSITION: AFRICAN SOLUTION, END TO ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION, RECONCILIATION OF THREE ANGOLAN PARTIES ON THE GROUND. NEW ELEMENT, HOWEVER, JUST DECIDED AFTER MUCH STUDY AND THOUGHT, WOULD BE INDICATION THAT SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA MUST BE ENDED "AT ALL COSTS." BEN REDJEB, WHO ASKED TO BE MOST CAREFULLY PROTECTED, IN THAT HE SPEAKING OF PRESIDENT'S WORDS PRIOR TO THEIR DELIVERY, SAID GOT HAD CONCLUDED THAT SOUTH AFRICANS MUST END THEIR INTERVENTION BECAUSE IT IS THE FACTOR WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR RAPID GROWTH OF NUMBER OF COUNTRIES RECOGNIZING MPLA. RUSSIAN JUSTIFICATIONS OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT ARE EFFECTIVE, SAID BEN REDJEB, BECAUSE THEY HAMMER THE POINT THAT SOVIET UNION IS HELPING BLACK AFRICANS AGAINST THEIR COMMON ENEMY, SOUTH AFRICA.

2. BEN REDJEB SAID BOURGUIBA REPLY IS BEING EDITED

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AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN CARTHAGE AND HE DID NOT

KNOW HOW SOON WE WILL HAVE IT.

3. WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS
OF BOURGUIBA LETTER. IMPLICATION OF BEN REDJEB'S
REMARKS WAS THAT IN TUNISIAN VIEW SOUTH AFRICA
WITHDRAWAL IS REREQUISITE TO MARSHALLING AFRICAN
OPINION AGAINST SOVIET INVOLVEMENT. AS WE ARE
REPORTING SEPTTEL, BEN REDJEB ALSO INFORMED US
TUNISIA HAS NOW DECIDED ATTEND SUMMIT. BOURGUIBA
WILL BE REPRESENTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI.
KING

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